

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 230609
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APPROVED BY P:MR. HABIB
NEA:MR. ATHERTON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 230609

EXDIS - TREAT AS NODIS, FOR CHARGE; WH FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, US, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

1. THERE ARE PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON WHO MAY REFUSE TO AGREE TO CEASEFIRE AND ACTIVELY SEEK TO SUBVERT IT. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, THAT DESPITE BEST EFFORTS OF GOL, PLO AND SYRIANS, THESE REJECTIONISTS MAY EITHER ENGAGE IN SOME SCATTERED FIRING OR LAUNCH SOME ROCKETS INTO ISRAEL. IN THIS RESPECT, WE NOTE THAT PFLP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROCKETS THAT HIT SAFED.

2. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE FOR USE IN YOUR DISCRETION WHEN AND IF REJECTIONIST ROCKET OR OTHER ATTACKS

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ON ISRAEL OCCUR:

-- CARRYING OUT THE CEASEFIRE AND EVENTUALLY THE WITHDRAWAL ASPECTS OF SHTOURA AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE UNTIDY. THERE ARE BOUND TO BE INCIDENTS.

-- THE REJECTIONISTS MIGHT WELL LIKE TO SABOTAGE THE CEASE-

FIRE, DESPITE FATAH/SYRIAN/LEBANESE EFFORTS TO GET THEM TO BEHAVE.

-- THE INTRODUCTION OF LEBANESE MILITARY UNITS INTO THE SOUTH MAY PROVIDE THE ANSWER TO POSSIBLE CONTINUED REJECTIONIST ATTACKS ON THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES OR ON ISRAEL. THIS IS A STRONG REASON FOR MEETING WITH THE LEBANESE UNDER UN AUSPICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT UNDERSTANDINGS CAN BE REACHED ON WAYS TO CONTAIN THE REJECTIONIST THREAT AND TO ALLOW THE LEBANESE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHTOURA AGREEMENT.

-- PATIENCE AND RESTRAINT WILL BE NECESSARY. WE WILL, HOWEVER, AS EARLIER PROMISED, DO OUR BEST WITH THE PARTIES HAVING INFLUENCE OVER EVENTS IN THE SOUTH TO ENSURE THAT ISRAELI CONCERNS ARE SATISFIED.
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